

Applicant: Schwartz et al.
Serial No.: 10/665,788
Group Art Unit 3738

PATENT
Docket No.: 20220-502

REMARKS

This Amendment is filed in response to the Office Action dated September 17, 2004. In this Amendment, claims 1 and 12 are amended and claim 11 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1-10, 12-16 and 18 shall be pending and awaiting further examination. Of these claims, claims 1 and 12 are independent.

In the Office Action, the drawings are objected to as failing to show a sealing device and a media port. A replacement drawing sheet is submitted herewith showing these features and the specification has been amended to provide a corresponding reference numeral.

Additionally, claims 1-10, 12-16 and 18 have been rejected based on prior art grounds. Claim 11 was indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form. The drawings are objected to. In this Response, without conceding that the prior art rejections are appropriate, but rather to expedite the allowance of the claims, the Applicant has incorporated the subject matter of allowable Claim 11 into independent Claims 1 and 12. Claim 11 has been canceled. Replacement drawing sheets are submitted to address the objections to the drawings. It is respectfully submitted that this Amendment resolves all remaining issues, thus placing all pending claims in condition for allowance. Hence, it is submitted that entry of this Amendment is proper.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC §§ 102 and 103

The examiner rejected claims 1-10, 12-16 and 18 under either § 102(b) or § 103(a) based on the *Kensey et al* reference. Without addressing the merits of these rejections, the Applicant submits that the amendments made to Claims 1 and 12 render these rejections moot. Hence, the Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner's prior art rejections be withdrawn.

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CONCLUSION

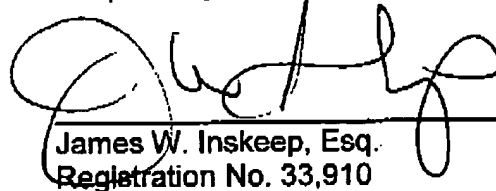
In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that all claims pending after entry of this amendment (namely, claims 1-10, 12-16 and 18) are in condition for allowance. Hence, entry of this Amendment is proper and is earnestly requested.

If any questions or issues arise that are more easily addressed by the Examiner through direct communication with the undersigned, the Examiner is cordially to contact the undersigned at the number listed below.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee which may be required in connection with this Amendment to deposit account No. 50-2809.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: Nov. 30, 2005


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